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Public invited to Fort Shafter Centennial Celebration June 22
U.S. Army, Pacific Public Affairs Office

FORT SHAFTER, HI -- On Friday, June 22, Fort Shafter's historic Palm Circle will host events to commemorate of the installation's centennial of service in Hawaii. The celebration, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., is the highlight of Fort Shafter's year-long observance of its 100th birthday and the public is invited to attend

Military bands, ceremonies, displays and demonstrations for the entire family will be staged throughout the day on Palm Circle surrounded by stately Army homes and offices. Many of these buildings in this National Historic Landmark on the oldest Army installation in Hawaii date from the 1920's.

"This centennial celebration will have activities for the kids, live music and fun for the entire family. Come see historical displays of military hardware from Fort Shafter's past as well as the latest equipment being used today," Lt. Gen. John G. Brown III, U.S. Army, Pacific's commanding general, said.

Serenades and musical tributes by the American Belles, the U.S. Army Band's Strolling Strings, and Hawaii-based Air Force, Marine, Navy and National Guard bands will play throughout the day.

Displays include vintage Army vehicles and more recent Army people-movers like the HUMMV and Stryker vehicles and a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. Soldiers stationed by these and other Army displays on weapons, military working dogs, and medical equipment, will welcome questions about how they use them.

Re-enactors in vintage Army uniforms and former Soldiers will talk story about their Army experiences throughout the day. Other activities include a rock-climbing wall, keiki games, drawings for special prizes, and picnic foods.

At 11 a.m., major events include a centennial tree planting, the dedication of a permanent National Historic Site plaque and sealing of a commemorative time capsule at the Palm Circle gazebo near the flagpole.

Distinguished guests include Admiral Timothy J. Keating, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and Hawaii's Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.

The day's activities will close with the traditional Army retreat ceremony at 5 pm.

The Fort Shafter celebration is free and open to everyone. Parking will be at Fort Shafter Flats, on the south side of Moanalua Road. Shuttle buses will operate throughout the day beginning at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call the USARPAC public affairs office at 438-9375 or 438-6347, or visit www.usarpac.army.mil.



The 94th Army Air Missile Defense Command activation on Oct. 14, 2005 is one of many Army milestones at Fort Shafter. Fort Shafter will celebrate its centennial Friday, June 22 as a family birthday party open to all of Oahu residents. –Hawaii Army Weekly Photo